

REMARKS

This Amendment addresses the issues outstanding from the final Office Action dated July 25, 2005 following entry of the Reply filed November 23, 2005, in view of the Advisory Action dated December 21, 2005 and the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated May 8, 2006. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 17-34 are pending. Claims 1-16 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Office Action, Claims 17-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,987,612 to Takagawa ("Takagawa"). Claim 26 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Takagawa. Without acceding to the outstanding rejections, Claims 17 and 30 have been amended to more particularly recite certain distinctive features of Applicant's invention as well as to improve clarity and expression.

In particular, independent Claim 17 now recites, *inter alia*, loading into said user station in a second preliminary phase a piece of specialized software designed to translate said specific commands received by said user station into commands that conform to a first given communication protocol to which said smart card is responsive, said first given communication protocol being used between the smart card reader and the smart card to allow said smart card to perform operations in response to said specific commands after translation to said first given communication protocol by said piece of specialized software, and e/ activating at least one given function of at least one application stored in said smart card, in response to said translated command in order to perform said control of the user station. Support is provided, for example, at page 12, lines 10-20 of Applicant's disclosure.

It is apparent that Takagawa does not teach or suggest, at minimum, the above features of Claim 17. For example, the portion of Takagawa relied upon in the Office Action teaches an Internet access apparatus that includes a communication processing apparatus which automatically originates a call to an Internet access point and connects to a World Wide Web (WWW) server based on information read from a first information storage card, and an information processing apparatus which accesses a WWW server to retrieve and process WWW information based on information read from a second information storage card, and an operation interface apparatus for receiving the user's operations. *See* Takagawa, col. 2, lines 41-52. Thus, Takagawa teaches an apparatus that allows a user to connect to a WWW server access point based on information recorded on a first information storage card, and then to obtain WWW information based on information recorded on a second information storage card. *See* Takagawa, col. 2, lines 52-57. Takagawa does not teach or suggest, at minimum, the Claim 17 limitations of loading into said user station in a second preliminary phase a piece of specialized software designed to translate said specific commands received by said user station into commands that conform to a first given communication protocol to which said smart card is responsive, said first given communication protocol being used between the smart card reader and the smart card to allow said smart card to perform operations in response to said specific commands after translation to said first given communication protocol by said piece of specialized software, and e/ activating at least one given function of at least one application stored in said smart card, in response to said translated command in order to perform said control of the user station. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 17 distinguishes patentably from Takagawa.

Furthermore, independent Claim 30 now recites, *inter alia*, a specialized module configured to intercept said specific commands and to translate said specific commands from said remote server that are received by said user station in conformity with a first given communication protocol into translated commands that conform to a second given communication protocol to which said smart card is responsive and can be transmitted using said second given communication protocol via said smart card reader to said smart card, so as to activate, in response to receiving said specific commands from said remote server, at least one given function of at least one application stored in said smart card in response to said translated commands, after translation of said specific commands received from said remote server to said second given communication protocol by said specialized module. As discussed above with respect to Claim 17, Takagawa does not teach or suggest these features of Claim 30. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 30 distinguishes patentably from Takagawa for at least those reasons, as do the remaining claims depending therefrom and from Claim 17.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

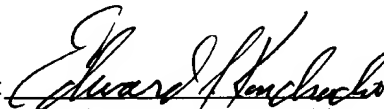
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

EJK:EGK

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September 7, 2006

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